



P.B.5818 - Patentlaan 2  
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)  
☎ +31 70 340 2040  
TX 31651 epo nl  
FAX +31 70 340 3016

# Europäisches Patentamt

Zweigstelle  
in Den Haag  
Recherchen-  
abteilung

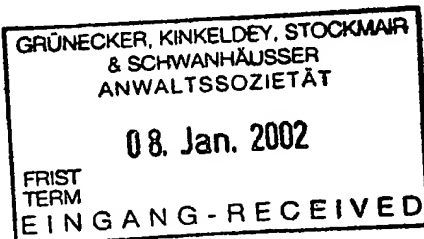
# European Patent Office

Branch at  
The Hague  
Search  
division

# Office européen des brevets

Département à  
La Haye  
Division de la  
recherche

Grünecker, Kinkeldey,  
Stockmair & Schwanhäusser  
Anwaltssozietät  
Maximilianstrasse 58  
80538 München  
ALLEMAGNE



Datum/Date

07.01.02

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

EP20970-009/kg ✓

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

01109615.3-2314- ✓

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

KAO CORPORATION ✓

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
① D, X✓	WO 99 60973 A (REZAI EBRAHIM ;TAO JIE (JP); PROCTER & GAMBLE (US)) 2 December 1999 (1999-12-02) * page 4, line 31 - page 6, line 30 * * page 8, line 4-9 * * page 9, line 8-24; figures 1,2 *	1-4	A61F13/514 A61F13/496
② X✓	GB 2 293 573 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 3 April 1996 (1996-04-03) * the whole document *	1-4	
③ X✓	WO 99 16401 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 8 April 1999 (1999-04-08) * the whole document *	1-4	
④ P, X✓	WO 00 38915 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 6 July 2000 (2000-07-06) * page 9, line 31 - page 10, line 21 * * page 15, line 11-20; claims; figures *	1-4	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			A61F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 19 December 2001	Examiner Seabra, L
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 10 9615

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

19-12-2001

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9960973	A	02-12-1999	WO	9960973 A1	02-12-1999
			AU	7801498 A	13-12-1999
			EP	1079781 A1	07-03-2001
			JP	2000513645 T	17-10-2000
GB 2293573	A	03-04-1996	AU	702372 B2	18-02-1999
			AU	3214095 A	26-04-1996
			CA	2152407 A1	31-03-1996
			DE	69515891 D1	27-04-2000
			DE	69515891 T2	07-12-2000
			EP	0785762 A2	30-07-1997
			ES	2143063 T3	01-05-2000
			FR	2725155 A1	05-04-1996
			JP	10506586 T	30-06-1998
			WO	9610380 A2	11-04-1996
			US	5897541 A	27-04-1999
			ZA	9507567 A	17-04-1996
WO 9916401	A	08-04-1999	US	6075178 A	13-06-2000
			AU	9671998 A	23-04-1999
			WO	9916401 A1	08-04-1999
			ZA	9808462 A	29-03-1999
WO 0038915	A	06-07-2000	AU	2222200 A	31-07-2000
			DE	19983893 T0	29-11-2001
			WO	0038915 A1	06-07-2000